

H-2800 PARENTS AND CARETAKER RELATIVES GROUP**H-2801 GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Affordable Care Act of 2010 established a new Medicaid eligibility group called “Parents and Caretaker Relatives.” These adults were formerly considered for the Low Income Families with Children (LIFC) program as a parent or caretaker relative.

Beginning January 1, 2014, this new group includes individuals with income less than or equal to 24 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (19 percent FPL plus 5 percent disregard).

Eligibility will be determined using Modified Adjusted Gross Income (MAGI) based income standards.

H-2802 ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION PROCESS

Determine eligibility by applying the following criteria. The elements have been listed in the most logical order, but work on all steps simultaneously.

H-2802.1 Assistance Unit

A caretaker relative is a relative of a dependent child by blood, adoption, or marriage with whom the child is living, and who assumes primary responsibility for the child’s care. A caretaker relative is one of the following:

- parent;
- grandparent;
- sibling (brother or sister);
- brother-in-law;
- sister-in-law;
- step-parent;
- step-sibling;

- aunt;
- uncle;
- first cousin;
- niece; or
- nephew.

The spouse of such parents or caretaker relatives may be considered a caretaker relative even after the marriage is terminated by death or divorce.

The assistance unit consists of the parent and/or caretaker relative and the spouse of the parent and/or caretaker relative, if living together, of a child(ren) under age 18, or is age 18 and a full-time student in high school or vocational/technical training, and is expected to complete the course of study before or during the month of their 19th birthday.

If more than one unmarried parent or caretaker relative lives in the home with the child, only the parent or caretaker relative who has primary responsibility (i.e., considered the primary caretaker) for the child can be considered for eligibility under the Parent and Caretaker Relatives group.

The designation as primary caretaker is not based on the parent or caretaker relatives being a tax filer, tax dependent or non-filer.

Note:

A child does not have to be Medicaid eligible or be included in the request for Medicaid in order for the parent/caretaker to be certified for the Parent and Caretaker Relative Group. Consider eligibility for children included in the request for Medicaid in the appropriate children's group.

H-2802.2 Establish Categorical Requirement

Verify that there is a child under age 18, or is age 18 and a full-time student in high school or vocational/technical training, and is expected to complete the course of study before or during the month of their 19th birthday.

School attendance requirements are met if:

- a child is out of school because of vacation, temporary illness, or family emergency;
- an incapacitated child attends fewer hours or receives instruction from a visiting teacher at home;
- a child is enrolled in a Job Corps program; or
- a child is enrolled in the National Guard Youth Challenge Program.

Self-attestation of relationship is accepted unless information provided is not reasonably compatible with other information in the State's files.

H-2802.3 Establish Non-Financial Eligibility

Establish non-financial eligibility requirements in the Parents and Caretaker Relatives program. Verify eligibility for each member of the assistance unit with regard to the following factors:

- [Age – MAGI Related](#) [I-100](#)
- [Assignment of Third Party Rights](#) [I-200](#)
- [Citizenship/Alien Status](#) [I-300](#)
- [Enumeration](#) [I-600](#)
- [Residence](#) [I-1900](#)
- [SES Referral](#) [I-2000](#)

Evaluate the need for Support Enforcement Services (SES) referral. Refer to [I-2000 Support Enforcement Services](#).

H-2802.4 Establish Need

Household composition for the Parents and Caretaker Relatives Group is based on MAGI. Refer to [I-1550 MAGI Determinations](#).

Countable Income for the Parents and Caretaker Relatives Group is based on MAGI. Refer to [I-1550 MAGI Determinations](#). Compare to Income Standard for Parents and Caretaker Relatives Group. Refer to [Z-200 Federal Poverty Income Guidelines](#).

H-2802.5 Eligibility Decision

Evaluate all eligibility requirements and verifications received to make the eligibility decision.

H-2802.6 Certification Period

The certification period may be effective no earlier than three (3) months prior to the application date provided the individual is otherwise eligible. The months of retroactive coverage are not included in the twelve (12) month certification period. The twelve (12) month certification period begins with the month of application.

Retroactive medical eligibility shall be explored for the three months prior to the month of application. Refer to [H-1800, Retroactive Medical Eligibility](#).

H-2802.7 Notice of Decision

Send the appropriate notice of decision to the applicant/enrollee.